collection, there will be labour requirement of 160 lakh mandays per annum. Besides, providing green coverage to large wasteland areas, it will also help in providing locally available clean energy to catalyze socio-economic development process in rural India.

Cloud seeding

1342. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has made/developed technology of cloud seeding to overcome the drought situation in the country;

(b) if so, what would be the cost for cloud seeding in a season;

(c) whether Karnataka Government has made efforts in the direction of cloud seeding; if so, the amount spent so far; and

(d) whether Centre has assisted Karnataka financially; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No technology is available in the country for drought alleviation through cloud seeding when the drought is widespread. However, some research and development efforts have been made in the past to enhance rainfall through cloud seeding over small areas.

(b) The Indian Institute of Tropical Meterology (IITM), Pune carried out cloud seeding experiments in Maharashtra State during 11 summer monsoon seasons between 1973 and 1986 at a cost of Rs. 58 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The Government of Karnataka invited short term Global Tenders for cloud seeding. The cost of cloud seeding operation quoted by a US based agency was US$ 12,17,335 (approximately Rs. 5.68 crores) excluding the cost of consumables.

The Centre has not provided any financial assistance to Karnataka in this regard. This project is financed by the State Government of Karnataka.